

**Harvard Medical School Department of  
Continuing Education and the MGH Pain Center  
at Massachusetts General Hospital**



***Pain Management Rounds***  
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**Spasticity and its Management**

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**Objectives:**

- Learn to define spasticity
- Understand the clinical presentation of spasticity
- Learn about the available treatments for spasticity and their limitations

**Questions:**

1. Spasticity is defined as a velocity-dependent increase in tonic stretch reflexes.

True       False

2. The Ashworth Scale is the only measuring scale available for spasticity.

True       False

3. Practitioners should always have functional goals in mind when treating spasticity.

True       False

4. Surgical options are the most definitive treatments for spasticity.

True       False

5. The main components of spasticity treatment will include prevention of aggravating factors, rehabilitation, bracing, local injections, oral medications, an intrathecal baclofen delivery system, and surgery.

True       False

6. The choice of medications used to treat spasticity depends on the etiology and the site of action for that particular medication.

True       False

7. In general, if a patient responds to oral baclofen, he/she would be an appropriate candidate for intrathecal baclofen treatment due to its better side effect profile.

True       False

8. Proximity to medical centers capable of handling intrathecal baclofen pumps and 24-hr physician coverage for these devices is mandatory for safe patient care.

True       False

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